

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-06

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 /114 W

-----065089 281153Z /23

R 271623Z JAN 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1048

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, ET, SO, CU, UR

SUBJECT: CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT

REF: (A) HAVANA 0204, (B) HAVANA 0208, (C) HAVANA 0219 (NOTAL)

1. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY (NIKOVSKI), JANUARY 26, STATED THAT, BASED ON REPORTING FROM ADDIS, MENISTU GOVERNMENT EARLIER HAD GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO POSSIBLE ERITREAN AUTONOMY FORMULA (SEE REFTEL C SOVIET INTIMATION TO THAT EFFECT), BUT IT NOW APPEARS TO HAVE DROPPED IDEA. NIKOVSKI SAID YUGOSLAVS HAD NOT REPORTED ANY ETHIOPIAN CONSIDERATION OF OGADEN AUTONOMY. YUGOSLAVS LINK APPARENT HARDENING OF MENGISTU'S POSITION AND CONCOMITANT LESSENED LIKELIHOOD FOR ERITREAN AND OGADEN POLITICAL SOLUTIONS TO INCREASE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORT. (COMMENT: POLISH AMBASSADOR, JANUARY 26, SPEAKING TO OGADEN PROBLEM, SAID THAT APPROACH OF "SOCIALIST CAMP" IS THAT SOMALI FORCES MUST BE DRIVEN OUT OF OGADEN AND THAT "COMMISSION" COULD THEN BE FORMED OF "INTERESTED PARTIES" TO

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DETERMINE APPROPRIATE POLITICAL STATUS OF OGADEN POPULACE. LOCAL AFP REPRESENTATIVE, CITING CUBAN SOURCES, JANUARY 26, SAID THAT HAVANA CONTINUES TO BE ATTRACTED TO MARCH TAIZ FORMULA IN WHICH HORN STATES WOULD BE SUBSUMED UNDER FEDERATION IN WHICH REGIONS SUCH AS OGADEN AND ERITREA WOULD ENJOY RELATIVE AUTONOMY.)

2. YUGOSLAVS, UNLIKE ROMANIANS (REF C), BELIEVE THAT CUBANS HAVE CAST CAUTION TO THE WINDS WITH REGARD TO 1979 NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. NIKOVSKI POINTED OUT THAT CUBANS, IN LAST TWO MONTHS, HAVE HARSHLY CRITICIZED SOMALIA, EGYPT, ZAIRE, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, AND KAMPUCHEA--ALL NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT COUNTRIES. YUGOSLAVS BELIEVE THAT CUBANS PERHAPS FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, ARE MARCHING TO MOSCOW'S TUNE. (NIKOVSKI PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON CUBAN DECISION TO LAMBAST KAMPUCHEA--A COUNTRY WITH WHICH CUBA HAD PREVIOUSLY MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS. HE CONTRASTED INCREASING ONESIDEDNESS OF CUBAN POLICY--AFTER INITIAL DISPLAY OF RELATIVE EVENHANDEDNESS--SEE HAVANA 24-- TO CHINESE DISPLAY OF RELATIVE RESTRAINT IN TREATMENT OF VIETNAM.)

3. IN LINE WITH THESIS ON INCREASED CUBAN PRO-SOVIET SECTARIANISM, NIKOVSKI CLAIMED THAT RAUL CASTRO, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS HAVE NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY MADE KNOWN SINCE DECEMBER, HAS SPENT TIME NOT ONLY IN ALGERIA, GUINEA AND ETHIOPIA, BUT ALSO VISITED MOSCOW FOR PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME THIS MONTH.

4. YUGOSLAVS ALSO REPORT THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED BOTH SECOND AND FIRST-HAND REPORTS OF RECENT CUBAN DOMESTIC MILITARY MOBILIZATION FOR ETHIOPIAN SERVICE AND SAW SEVERAL "TRUCKLOADS" OF PEOPLE BEING PICKED UP FROM ONE HAVANA MILITARY REGISTRATION CENTER DURING WEEK OF JANUARY 16. (COMMENT: NORMAL CUBAN MILITARY CALL-UP PERIODS ARE MAY-JUNE AND NOVEMBER-DECEMBER. USINT OFFICER, JANUARY 18, SAW GROUP CONFIDENTIAL

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OF ABOUT FORTY OLDER INDIVIDUALS GATHERED AT ALAMAR MILITARY REGISTRATION CENTER. SAME CENTER WAS OBSERVED, JANUARY 26, AND ONLY ABOUT SIX PEOPLE WERE GATHERED OUTSIDE. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR REPORTS FROM OUR CUBAN PERSONNEL AND THOSE OF OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS INDICATING THAT THERE WERE SELECTED INDIVIDUAL, BUT APPARENTLY RELATIVELY WIDESPREAD, ETHIOPIA-RELATED CALL-UPS DURING SECOND AND THIRD WEEKS OF JANUARY.) GLASSMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA00236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780042-0825
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780115/aaaaamkz.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 54b370df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HAVANA 204, 78 HAVANA 208, 78 HAVANA 219
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3702962
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN PARTICIPATION IN ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT
TAGS: MILI, MASS, ET, SO, CU, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/54b370df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014